THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Approval has been given on 15.2.2002 to the Government of Maharashtra for setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Dronagiri in Navi Mumbai on the basis of the proposal received from them. The SEZ is promoted by the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) over a total area of 4377 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 6359 crores.

(c) and (d) CIDCO has since finalized a preferred bidder for the project and the financial closure is now expected to be achieved by June, 2005.

Lotterry trade on sound commercial lines

3561. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that China was organising International Lottery Technology Equipment Expo in Beijing on 2.4.2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China sold lottery tickets in 2004 for more than 38 billion Yuan (i.e. US$ 4.6 billion); and

(c) if the above facts are correct, would he consider to organise lottery trade in India on sound commercial lines in tune with national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far there is no such proposal under consideration.

Patents for 966 medicines by Kerala

3562. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought patents for 966 medicinal plants during the period 2004-2005;

(b) if so, status of the above;

(c) whether the farmers are able to lay claim to the seeds developed by them under the geographical indicator act; and

(d) if so, the details including the number of such claims approved by the competent authority for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?